

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the Interview conducted on October 4, 2005, in which the Examiner suggested that applicants introduce additional structural characteristics into the claims to obviate the written description rejection.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the Interview conducted on November 10, 2005, in which the Examiner indicated that new claims 73-77 should be allowable.

Claims 65-72 have been canceled. Claims 73-77 are new and are fully supported by the specification, for example on page 23, lines 14-17, and in Fig. 3E.

Claims 65-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such way as to reasonably convey that applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. The Examiner contends that nothing in the specification would lead the skilled artisan to the claimed species.

Applicants traverse the rejection for the reasons previously set forth in applicants' February 16, 2005, Amendment, February 19, 2004, Amendment, November 12, 2003, Supplemental Amendment, and August 25, 2003, Amendment.

Moreover, new claims 73-77 recite that the virus encodes an HIV-1_{ELI} variant Env protein containing the well-conserved stretches of OMP at amino acid positions 37-130, 211-289, and 488-530 of HIV-1_{ELI} or HIV-1_{MAL} shown in Figure 3E. The Office has agreed that this language obviates the written description rejection. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees, he is invited to call the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues remaining in this application in order to expedite prosecution.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 

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